

REPRESENTING HARTFORD, BLOOMFIELD & WINDSOR

YOUR STATE SENATOR **Eric Coleman**



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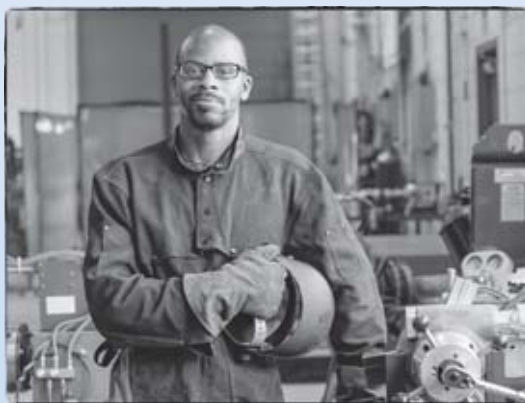


Growing Hartford Area Jobs

Connecticut's cutting edge manufacturers are playing a key role in helping our state go green, innovation I saw firsthand during a tour of Salamander Designs in Bloomfield. Salamander is a local manufacturer specializing in home entertainment furniture, and is a beneficiary and strong proponent of Connecticut's Small Business Express Program. With the state's support, Salamander purchased new equipment and created jobs at its Bloomfield facility. Salamander also recently took the initiative to go 100 percent solar. On sunny days, newly installed solar panels will provide all of the facility's electricity. This enterprise is a win-win for Salamander and Bloomfield, reducing both the business' electric bills and its carbon footprint.

Boost for Minority-Owned Businesses

To help grow greater Hartford's small business community, I supported the enactment of a Minority Business Enterprise Assistance Program to support minority contractors. The Hartford Economic Development Corporation (HEDCo) will implement the program to help businesses in the Hartford area obtain surety bonds for capital construction. State support for minority contractors will boost Hartford's small business community and help it thrive. We are actively encouraging the role these businesses can play in growing our local economy, and I want to keep them informed of programs like this so they are poised to capitalize on the state support available to them.



The Blight of Discarded Mattresses

When mattresses are dumped on the sides of streets, city taxpayers are left to foot the bill for disposing of them. Hartford has spent as much as \$400,000 in a single year to deal with unwanted mattresses. This year, I voted to create a statewide mattress recycling and disposal program. It moves the burden off of the taxpayer and will save Hartford and other municipalities hundreds of thousands of dollars. This innovative program makes us a model for the nation.



Decriminalizing Out-Of-Town Enrollments

Under current law, it is a felony for a parent to enroll a child in a school outside of the district where the



child resides. When we make felons of these parents—who want their children to thrive in a more positive learning environment—we send the wrong message about how we as a society value parental engagement. That is why I am leading an initiative by advocates, parents and guardians to decriminalize these out-of-town enrollments. We will continue these efforts in 2014 so we can provide our children with the best future possible.

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Update from **SENATOR Eric Coleman**

Committed to Economic Recovery

At the beginning of the global economic recession, Connecticut economists predicted a very slow recovery. At the State Capitol, we took action. During the last three legislative sessions and the 2011 October Special Session on Jobs, we passed historic, bipartisan, job-creating bills.

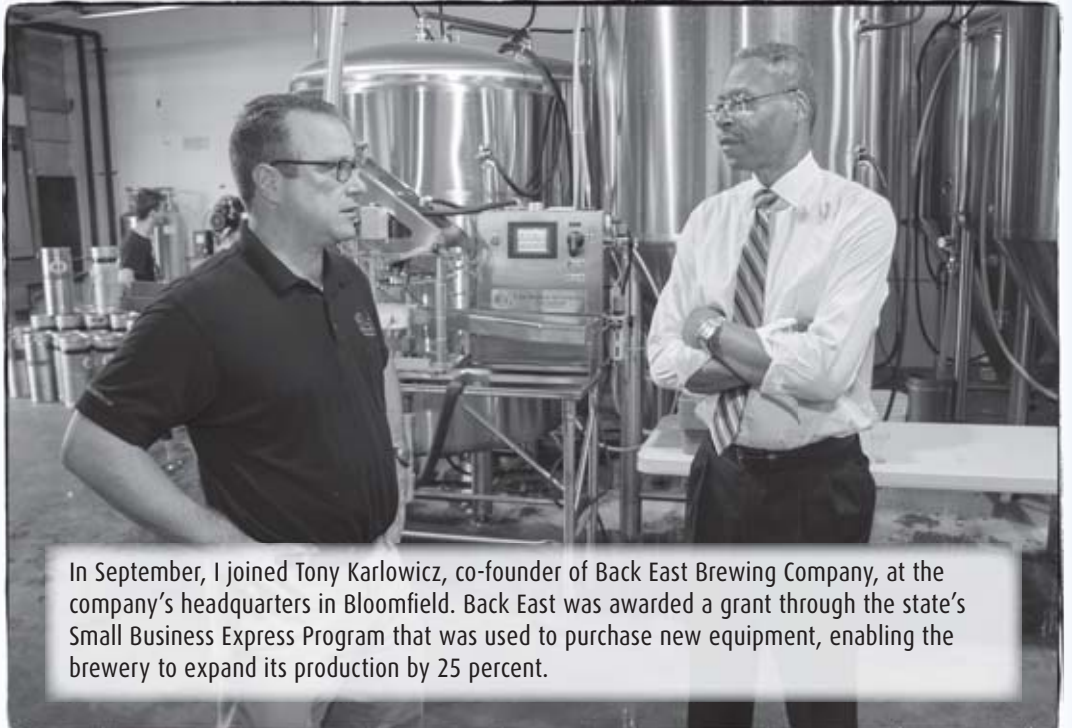
We launched and then expanded programs to help thousands of small and medium-size businesses. For example, the **STEP-Up** and **Small Business Express** programs—which so far have assisted nearly 850 firms to create or preserve almost 12,000 jobs—offer job-training support for veterans and the unemployed and low-interest loans and state grants for small businesses.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, we have created more than 41,000 private-sector jobs since 2011.

Resources to Grow Jobs

- **Job Expansion Tax Credits** for small businesses: www.decd.org
- **Small Business Express** to get funding for your small business: tinyurl.com/SmallBizXpress, or contact Michelle Peters at 860-270-8052 or Michelle.Peters@ct.gov.
- **STEP-Up** (Subsidized Training & Employment Programs) provides worker training subsidies for small businesses and small manufacturers: www.stepct.com
- **Connecticut Reemployment Portal** if you have recently lost a job and are looking for work: www1.ctdol.state.ct.us/CTReP
- **Job & Career ConnecTion** for details on job and training programs: www.ctjobandcareer.org

To learn more about job growth in Connecticut, visit:
www.senatedems.ct.gov/GrowJobs



In September, I joined Tony Karlowicz, co-founder of Back East Brewing Company, at the company's headquarters in Bloomfield. Back East was awarded a grant through the state's Small Business Express Program that was used to purchase new equipment, enabling the brewery to expand its production by 25 percent.



I recently stopped by Living Word Imprints on Homestead Avenue to hear from owner Herman Todd about the growth of his business, a recipient of a Small Business Express loan granted through the Hartford Economic Development Corporation (HEDCo).

Support for Local Businesses

Locally, many businesses in the communities I represent are utilizing important programs like STEP-Up and Small Business Express to preserve and create jobs.

Bloomfield: RayGinn Manufacturing, R&D Dynamics, Salamander Designs, Street Fleet Mechanics, Back East Brewery, Point Lighting Corporation
Hartford: Express Kitchens, Fichman Eye Center, Friendly Auto Body & Towing, Baronet Coffee, Urban Contractors of Connecticut, Living Word Imprints, Reliable Electric Motor, Choice Merchant Solutions, Moody Consulting Firm, CPI Manufacturing, RK Insulation, Heart of the Harvest, Star Hardware
Windsor: Polytronics Corporation, Energy Efficiency Solutions, Triple Helix Corporation, Cooperative Systems, Yosi Kosher Catering, Euphoria Event Solutions

Children's Mental Health

Following the Newtown tragedy, Democrats and Republicans came together to improve Connecticut's mental health care system, with a particular focus on the well-being of children.

The new law implements a strong, comprehensive, integrated system of care. It identifies strategies for reducing the long-term negative impact of mental, emotional and behavioral health issues on children. It promotes early identification and intervention, and ensures access to developmentally appropriate services to help treat children earlier. It also created a Children's Mental Health Task Force to study the effects of nutrition, genetics and medication on our youngsters.



Stamping Out Price Gouging



In light of recent severe hurricanes and historic snowstorms that have battered Connecticut, members of the public have been vulnerable to price gouging by shady service providers for snow removal, flood abatement, roof raking and lodging. That is why we expanded consumer protections by prohibiting price gouging for services that are essential for the health, safety and welfare of consumers in the aftermath of severe storms. This will be a deterrent to exploitative business owners and will protect consumers from predatory practices.

For more information about how to report price gougers, contact the **Department of Consumer Protection** at 860-713-6300 or visit www.ct.gov/dcp.